GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:45
ANSWERED ON:25.11.2005
DEVELOPMENT OF DEGRADED LAND
Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba;Verma Shri Ravi Prakash

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether despite implementation of a number of schemes, the physical progress of development of degraded land has been rather slow;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government for development of degraded land and success achieved during the first three years of the Tenth Five Year Plan?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH)

(a)to(c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House. STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS fat to (c) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 45 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 25.11.2005

(a) & (b) The Department of Land Resources is implementing 3 Area Development Programmes in the country, namely Integrated Wastelands Development Programme

(IWDP), Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP) and Desert Development Programme

(DDP) for development of non-forest wastelands, drought proofing and checking desertification, on watershed basis. The treatment of wastelands is slow on account of the extent of wastelands, available resources, the lengthy process of treatment and time taken for mobilisation and involvement of the inhabitants of the area. According to the Wasteland Atlas of India, published in 2000 by the Department of Land Resources in collaboration with the National Remote Sensing Agency, Hyderabad using Remote Sensing techniques, 638.5 lakh hectares of land has been delineated as wastelands in India. Out of this 369.8 lakh hectares is treatable non-forest wastelands. These wastelands are occurring in all the climatic regions of the country. DDP and DPAP are implemented in blocks identified on certain scientific criteria by the Hanumantha Rao Committee in arid and semi-arid/ dry sub-humid regions respectively. Part of the 369.8 lakh hectares of wastelands are covered under these programmes. For the wastelands in the remaining areas, IWDP is implemented. The Department of Land Resources has sanctioned 61.96 lakh hectares under IWDP projects, 106.765 lakh hectares under DPAP and 57.38 lakh hectares under DDP projects for treatment, from 1.4.1995 till 31.3.2005, under the Guidelines for Watershed Development,

(c) The Government has considerably increased the resources allocated for development of degraded lands, and consequentially the number of projects sanctioned and the area covered have also gone up considerably. During the first three years of the Tenth Five Year Plan, 460 IWDP projects for treatment of 24.597 lakh hectares at a total cost of Rs. 1475.82 crores, 7563 DPAP projects for treatment of 37.815 lakh hectares at a total cost of Rs. 2268.90 crores and 4764 DDP projects for treatment of 23.82 lakh hectares at a total cost of Rs. 1429.20 crores have been sanctioned. The project period is 5 years. Funds to the tune of Rs. 2318.13 crores have been released under the 3 programmes for on-going as well as new projects during the last three years. State-wise and programme-wise number of projects sanctioned and area taken up for treatment during the last three years are given in Annexure-I and release of funds for ongoing as well as new projects are given in Annexure-II. During the current financial year, till date, 340 IWDP projects, 3000 DPAP projects and 2000 DDP projects covering an area of 16.32 lakh hectares, 15.00 lakh hectares Rs.B and 10.00 lakh hectares respectively have been sanctioned for treatment at a total cost of Rs. 2479.08 crores. Impact assessment studies carried out in 16 States have revealed that overall productivity of land has increased, water table has gone up and there has been a significant positive impact on the overall economic development of the inhabitants of the project areas.